

**Weekly Status & Information Report:  
Week of January 23, 2006**

**1. Tenant Capacity Program (Ward 3):** Tenants residing at 60 Elm Avenue have formed a tenants association with the assistance of the Tenant Capacity Building Program. The tenants had contacted the Office on Landlord-Tenant Affairs, stating that they felt a tenant's association would empower them to work with their landlord regarding various issues in the building. The association has been officially registered with the city and has been informed of the various housing services available. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**2. Enterprise Zone Meeting (Wards 2, 3, 5 and 6):** The City is holding a second Enterprise Zone meeting to reach out to businesses along New Hampshire Avenue at 9:30 AM on February 7th. In response to the concerns expressed by businesses at the focus groups, this meeting will initiate the process to create a business watch aimed at reducing crime and a business association to better advocate for the concerns of business owners and foster information sharing. Titled 'Eyes on the Street', the meeting is for business and property owners in the commercial centers along University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue from Eastern Avenue to Carroll Avenue, and at the Flower Avenue/Piney Branch intersection. The meeting will be held at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave. For more information please contact David Suls at 301-891-7219. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**3. ICC Final Environmental Impact Statement Available:** The City of Takoma Park has received two hard copies of the ICC FEIS and two CDs of the same information. One of the CDs and one of the hard copies (consisting of three very large binders of information) will be placed on reserve in the Takoma Park, Md. Library. The document can also be accessed via <http://iccstudy.org/>. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

**4. Speed Camera Legislation Passes.** This week both the House and Senate of the Maryland General Assembly voted to override Governor Ehrlich's veto of the speed camera legislation proposed last year. The legislation will permit speed cameras to be installed in Montgomery County. The legislation becomes effective 30 days from January 26th. A copy of the legislation can be obtained at <http://mlis.state.md.us/2005rs/bills/hb/hb0443e.pdf> *(Community & Government Liaison)*

**5. New Temporary Day Laborer Site:** The City's temporary day laborer site will move on Wednesday, February 1, to its new temporary location at the rear of 6500 New Hampshire Avenue (at the intersection of Sheridan Street and Sligo Mill Road). Thanks to Mid-Atlantic Seafood Company for making the space available. Thanks also to the owners of the previous site, 6530 New Hampshire Avenue, for their assistance to the City for the last three years. CASA of Maryland and the Day Laborer Worker Committee were very helpful in identifying the new hiring site and will be working with the owner to ensure smooth operations. CASA of Maryland continues to look for a permanent site in Prince George's County that is large enough to accommodate vocational training and educational programs in addition to the day laborer hiring activities. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

**6. Radio Antenna Amplifier:** Installation has begun on the bi-directional radio antenna amplifier, which should be accomplished in a few days. This will allow the portable 800mHz police radios to be used on the first floor plaza level of the city building. *(Police)*

**7. Officers in Various Events:** Cpl. Tina Smith accompanied Piney Branch Elementary School students to the National Building Museum on Wednesday for a class trip. Detectives Collington and John attended a multi-jurisdictional investigators meeting sharing robbery information at the Arlington County Police Department. Chief Creamer and Capt. Coursey attended the Council of Governments Chief's meeting, where a committee was assigned to create an operational plan for law enforcement agencies use when needed to implement the National Capital Mutual Aid agreement. Lt. Cipperly and Ms. Dean attended a meeting of the domestic violence fatality review board. Sgt. Collington and Ofc. Gaskin are attending a police recruiter meeting. *(Police)*

**8. Traffic Enforcement:** The majority of this week's traffic enforcement was conducted on Flower Avenue and on residential streets, with additional citations being written on New Hampshire Avenue and on Hwy. 410 (Philadelphia and Ethan Allen). More than half of calls for parking complaints were initiated by residents' calls, almost exclusively in residential neighborhoods. In response to continued inquiries regarding requests to void parking citations, the police have developed the attached informational flier. Once a citation (traffic or parking) has been lawfully issued, the recipient's two alternatives are to pay the fine or go to court to contest the citation. (An unlawfully issued ticket, for example, would be a ticket written for parking next to a fire hydrant at a location where there is no hydrant.) *(Police)*

**9. New Hire Update:** Please see attached file provided in .pdf and RichTextFormats. *(Human Resources)*

## Disposition of Citations

From the **Annotated Code of Maryland**:

Transportation §26-407 states, in reference to **Disposition of citation**:

- (c) After the original copy of a traffic citation is filed with the District Court, the citation may be disposed of only by:
- (1) Trial, dismissal of the charges, or other official action by a judge of the courts;
  - (2) Forfeiture of the collateral, if authorized by the court; or
  - (3) Payment of a fine by the person to whom the traffic citation has been issued.
- (d) This section does not prohibit the entry of a “nol pros” or “stet” ...
- (g) (1) *No police officer or other public employee may dispose of a traffic citation, its copies, or the record of the issuance of a traffic citation in any manner other than as required by this section and the rules and regulations adopted by the Administration.*
- (2) *In addition to being unlawful, a violation of this subsection constitutes official misconduct.* [emphasis added]

Under Parking Ordinances and Regulations, Transportation §26-303 **Choice between payment and trial** states:

- (a)(1) The person receiving a citation under this subtitle shall:
- (i) Pay for the parking violation directly to the political subdivision or State agency serving the citation; or
  - (ii) Elect to stand trial for the violation.

## In Practical Terms, this means:

- ◆ Once a ticket has been lawfully written, only the Courts can void or “recall” the ticket.
- ◆ No officer or public official, including the Chief of Police, can “void” a ticket.
- ◆ If there is dispute between the officer who wrote the citation and the recipient, *the only choices* are for the recipient to request a trial date and make a case to the judge (§26-303) or to pay the fine.
- ◆ If circumstances convince the Chief of Police that a ticket was not lawfully issued, the Chief can request the Courts to not process or proceed with a ticket. For example, if a citation was written for parking during a snow emergency but one had not been declared, then the citation could be forwarded to the courts with a request to void it.

## New Hire Update

January 27, 2006



**Anthony D. Silver**

Anthony officially joins the City of Takoma Park Public Works Staff, as a part-time Building Maintenance Technician on February 1, 2006. Anthony will be responsible for cleaning and maintaining city facilities. Anthony worked previously for the City of Takoma Park as a temporary laborer. Anthony enjoys spending his weekends with his children and providing cleaning maintenance for the church he attends.

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

